

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-4 without prejudice. Please add new Claims 5-16, as follows:

5. (New) Electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for internal combustion engines, having a corrosion-resistant glow pipe which is closed at the end and contains a filling of electrically non-conductive, compacted powder in which an electrically conductive coil is embedded, wherein the electrically conductive coil is surface-hardened.

6. (New) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 5, wherein at least a heating coil is surface-hardened.

7. (New) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 5, wherein the electrically conductive coil (8, 9) is surface-hardened, at least over part of the longitudinal extent, by a diffusion treatment.

8. (New) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 7, wherein a hard diffusion zone of the electrically conductive coil has a depth of approximately 5 to 10 μm .

9. (New) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 7, wherein the diffusion treatment is nitriding.

10. (New) An electrically heatable heater for internal combustion engines, comprising:

a corrosion-resistant glow pipe which is closed at an end,

electrically non-conductive, compacted powder filling contained within the glow pipe, and

an electrically conductive coil which is embedded within the filling,

wherein at least a portion of the electrically conductive coil is surface-hardened.

11. (New) A electrically heatable heater according to Claim 10, wherein the surface-hardened portion is at least a heating coil.

12. (New) An electrically heatable heater according to Claim 11, wherein the surface hardening is by way of a diffusion treatment.

13. (New) An electrically conductive coil for a glow plug or glow rod in an internal combustion engine having a corrosion-resistant glow pipe closed at one end and containing a filling of electrically non-conductive, compacted powder, the conductive coil is operatively embedded in said filling and surface-hardened.

14. (New) A method of making an electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

surface-hardening at least a portion of an electrically conductive coil,
positioning the conductive coil in a corrosion-resistant glow pipe,
embedding the conductive coil in an electrically non-conductive powder

filling within the glow pipe,

compacting said powder filling, and
closing an end of the glow pipe.

15. (New) A method of making an electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for an internal combustion engine comprising surface-hardening at least a portion of an electrically conductive coil.

16. (New) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the conductive coil is operatively embedded in an electrically non-conductive compacted powder filling within a glow pipe.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please cancel the Abstract in its entirety and substitute the attached Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith on a separate, unnumbered sheet.